

REMARKS .

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for considering the present application. In the Office Action dated September 9, 2003, claims 1-15 are pending in the application. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner for reconsideration.

The oath or declaration was cited as defect for failing to state the citizenship of each inventor.

The abstract was also objected to for including the word "said." Applicant has submitted a new abstract herewith.

The drawings stand objected to under 37 C.F.R. 1.83(a) as failing to show the following features from the claims. The Examiner states that with respect to claim 3, neither figure discloses a common IP address of simulated ground stations. Applicant respectfully submits that the data flow which may include the IP addresses are illustrated. The same objection is given to claim 4. With respect to claim 7, the word "simultaneously" cannot be shown on a drawing. Therefore, applicant has not placed this word on the drawings. The figures also are objected to for failing to show "identifying desired ground stations." Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider this rejection. Identifying a desired ground station is just choosing one ground station from the plurality of ground stations. The step of identifying is a computer function and thus cannot be illustrated. The Examiner has a question regarding the AD RTS. The AD RTS is the simulation system.

With respect to claim 11, the port address is cited as not being disclosed in the figure. The same rejection is provided with respect to claim 12. Applicant respectfully submits that the flow of data is illustrated in the figures and thus this element is shown.

With respect to claims 8 and 13, the Examiner inquired "where or who is coupling the spacecraft status and control client?" As described at the bottom of page 9, the interface 48 received the connection request from the spacecraft status and control client 46 that identifies a

specific port address for the particular ground station service desired to be accessed. The interface is the INETD Daemon shown as 48.

With respect to claim 15, the Examiner has difficulty matching Fig. 2 with the claim. Figure 2 discloses range data whereas the claim states range data generator. The range data must be generated from a source. The range data is generated from the satellite simulation 54. This is shown by the arrow connecting satellite simulation 54 and range data 56 in Fig. 2.

Applicant respectfully believes that the drawings in view of the comments above do not need to be amended.

Claims 1-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over CSC (February 2000) in view of *Zammit* (1997). Applicant respectfully traverses.

Claim 1 is directed to a method of simulating the operation of a spacecraft that includes requesting a connection to one a plurality of simulated ground stations, generating range server name, in response to the range server name, generating server location parameters and instantiating a range server dedicated to a single ground station. The method further includes calculating the range data for each of the plurality of simulated ground stations and providing the range data for one of the plurality of simulated ground stations. The Examiner is directed to page 2 of the present application which describes the need for the present system. This paragraph states that there is a need to simulate the operation of various ranging and antenna systems at various times to provide a complete simulation of the system. Ranging is performed in an actual application by two or more ground stations that are used to improve the determination of the position of the spacecraft.

Although the *Zammit* reference teaches that it is desirable to simulate a complete system such as ground stations, no teaching or suggestion is provided in this reference for any type of range or ranging simulation. The CSC reference illustrates a tracking station. However, no ranging simulation is taught or suggested in this reference.

With respect to claim 7, the step of generating range, attitude and elevation data for a plurality of ground stations simultaneously is set forth. Further, identifying a desired ground station from a plurality of ground stations and providing range data for the desired ground station to a real time client is also set forth.

Claim 13 also describes the range data generator and range server. No teaching or suggestion is provided in either reference for this range data information.

The dependent claims are also allowable for the same reasons set forth above.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, applicant submits that all objections and rejections are now overcome. Applicant has added no new material to the application by these amendments. The application is now in condition for allowance and expeditious notice thereof is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments which would place the application in better condition for allowance, he is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney. Please charge any fees required in the filing of this amendment to Deposit Account No. 50-0476.

Respectfully submitted,



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